

COUNTERING SMALL UNITS OF GUERRILLAS

Operations conducted by regular armed forces, paramilitary forces, irregular forces, or nonmilitary agencies to counter small guerrilla units include use of squads and platoons widely dispersed to find, fix, and destroy small guerrilla groups.

The following concepts are employed:

- Continuous, extensive patrolling by small, highly mobile units moving by foot, track or wheel vehicle, air, or water. They will operate day and night in visiting populated areas, establishing surprise checkpoints on routes of communication, and searching rural areas. In counterguerrilla operations patrolling will be extensive and will frequently be the principal combat activity of small units. Commanders should recognize and emphasize:
 - The constant need for detailed information concerning the guerrilla force and terrain.
 - The requirement to assign patrol areas rather than precise routes.
 - The large amount of time required for patrols to cover assigned areas (or routes).
 - The difficulty and undesirability of controlling patrols by means of detailed time schedules.
 - The requirement for patrols to have flexibility to act on information gained during the patrol.
 - The need for a capability to reinforce and support patrols under difficult conditions.
- Area ambushes in which companies and battalions establish dispersed, but coordinated, small ambush sites over an area organized in depth and width, being careful to maintain an adequate reserve to prevent defeat in detail of individual ambush sites. The area ambush, when based upon accurate intelligence, is an effective technique for achieving maximum results against guerrilla forces moving about within an area. The area ambush consists of the primary ambush element which triggers the initial ambush, supported by other ambush groups which cover all likely routes of guerrilla movement into and out of the area. Once the main ambush is triggered, the other groups ambush any guerrillas moving into or out of the area.
- Numerous raids and cordon and search operations against towns and outlying areas suspected of harboring guerrilla personnel and/or materiel.
- Minimum reserves are held to permit employment of maximum resources in operations directly against the guerrilla.